

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
PHILADELPHIA 22, PA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 21, 1955

Dear Allen:

There is an old saying that "murder will out". When I was in Washington there was a definite effort to sabotage the information program. Two or three top journalists in Washington knew what a frustrating time I had had and, as a result of their efforts, I was invited by several important national publications to write the true story of my difficulties, many of which I could fully document with the names of persons, the date, and just exactly what happened. However, I thought such an article by me might cause some embarrassment to the President and to the Secretary of State; and although I had a great deal of pressure brought to bear upon me from certain national magazines, I decided it was better to hope that no one ever learned of my difficulties.

Nevertheless, I discovered a few days ago that my top consultant, Martin Merson, has just written a book based on his daily diary of our activities which certainly knocks the cover right off the ball. It is well written and about 90% accurate as far as I can see. I have just written a letter to my friend, Howard Pyle, regarding this situation and I thought you might be interested in reading it.

If you happen to read Martin Merson's book, "The Private Diary of a Public Servant" (I believe it will be on sale about June 27th), please remember that I did not know what the book contained until recently, when the publishers were thoughtful enough to send me an advance copy. I am very sorry the book was written but I suppose a man has a right to write a diary and have it published if he can.

Even though Merson had insisted on doing the book, I wish he had at least given me a chance to see the manuscript so that I could have made one or two major corrections which trouble me a great deal. One had to do with a talk I had with Mr. Herbert Hoover and the other was regarding a letter from my old friend, the Ambassador to Pakistan. Also, the author gives the impression that I did not receive the proper backing from the Secretary of State, and this is certainly not true.

I am afraid the Democrats are going to use a good deal of this material against us and, of course, that causes me very great concern.

I wanted you to know about this before news of the book appeared in the press.

Sincerely yours,


Robert L. Johnson

Honorable Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
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